

STATEWIDE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INTERIM APPROVED PRODUCT
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Interim Approved Product: ePass Montana for Secured Service Access

Short Title: ePass Montana Interim Approved Product

Effective Date: January 1, 2008

Approved: August 2, 2007

Replaces and Supersedes: This product replaces and supersedes all prior approved products or security solutions to allow external users to gain access to the State's secured (requiring a login) services through the Internet.

I. Product Purpose

ePass Montana was developed to increase security from the state's perspective and to provide better customer service from our customer's perspective.

ePass Montana is the single sign-on authentication solution for public-facing online services. ePass Montana uses Federated Identity Management technology to allow agencies to authenticate their users.

ePass Montana is a service provided on Montana's official state website, www.mt.gov, that provides the following benefits to Montana's businesses and citizens:

- Allows access to all authorized eGovernment services with one username and password
- Provides customization options for mt.gov so customers can personalize their services page
- Shows customers other government services that may be useful to them
- Grants them access into federal government services for which they are authorized

ePass Montana is an enterprise-wide service that benefits the State's customers by:

- Improving overall security of online services by having one entry point
- Decreasing human factor security breaches
- Developing a single security solution and using it multiple times resulting in cost efficiencies
- Focusing on one solution for oversight and auditing purposes reducing overall effort
- Increasing adoption rates for the state's eGovernment services

- Having more satisfied customers and building public trust in our security

II. Definitions

Refer to the [Statewide Information Technology Policies and Standards Glossary](#) for a complete list of definitions.

The definition of “external user” can be found in the enterprise security policy [ENT-SEC-063](#), titled “Usernames and Passwords”.

Authentication: The act of establishing or confirming someone is authentic, that is, that claims made by or about the person are true. Authenticating a person consists of verifying their identity based upon something you know about that person.

Authorization: The act of protecting computer resources by only allowing those resources to be used by persons that have been granted authority to use them.

III. Basis of Product Approval

The planning and implementation of the ePass Montana product has been in progress for more than six years, and is based upon federal standards; however, a state standard governing security solutions does not currently exist. Therefore to make use of this product, it is categorized as “interim” approved until the State of Montana adopts those federal standards.

ePass Montana conforms to all of the requirements and standards set forth by the federal government’s Chief Information Officer’s E-Authentication initiative (<http://www.cio.gov/eauthentication/>). It is a Federated Identity Management solution following the Liberty Alliance (<http://www.projectliberty.org/>) open source solution for single sign-on. E-Authentication sets the standards for the identity proofing of individuals and businesses, based on risk of online services used.

The initiative focuses on meeting the authentication business needs of eGovernment services, building the necessary infrastructure to support common, unified processes and systems for government-wide use. This builds the trust that must be an inherent part of every online exchange between citizens and the Government.

The E-Authentication standards are based on the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) publication titled “Electronic Authentication Guideline” dated April 2006 (http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistpubs/800-63/SP800-63V1_0_2.pdf).

IV. Applicability

All secured state government services provided online to external users must use ePass Montana for authentication. The University System is exempt from this

requirement. Authorization (see definition above) of individual external users may be done through ePass Montana, or other methods at the discretion of the agency.

V. Compliance

Affected agencies and organizations, as described in applicability, shall use this approved product for the sole authentication solution for eGovernment services not later than June 30, 2008.

VI. Enforcement

Affected agencies and organizations not implementing the ePass product are subject to one or more of the following enforcement actions:

- Restrictions on SummitNet usage
- Quarantine or isolation of non-compliant systems
- Actions set forth in [2-17-514\(1\)](#) MCA – Enforcement
- Other actions deemed necessary to provide a secure computer and network environment

VII. Change Control and Exceptions

Changes or exceptions to this approved product are governed by the Policy for Establishing and Implementing Statewide Information Technology Policies and Standards. Requests for a review or change to this approved product are made by submitting an [Action Request](#) form. Requests for exceptions are made by a department head submitting an [Exception Request](#) form.

VIII. Closing

For questions or comments on this approved product, e-mail ITpolicy@mt.gov, or, contact the Information Technology Services Division at:

Chief Information Officer
PO Box 200113
Helena, MT 59620-0113
(406) 444-2700
FAX: (406) 444-2701

The technical contact for this approved product is:

Internet Technology Service Bureau
Weinstein Building
P.O. Box 200115
Helena, Montana 59620-0115
(406) 444-1635

IX. Cross-Reference Guide

A. State/Federal Laws

- United States Government Chief Information Officer's E-Authentication initiative (<http://www.cio.gov/eauthentication/>)
- [2-17-505\(1\)](#) MCA– Policy
- [2-17-514\(1\)](#) MCA – Enforcement

B. State Policies (IT Policies, MOM Policies, ARM Policies)

- [MITA Audit Recommendation #1](#)
- [ARM 2.12.206](#) Establishing Policies, Standards, Procedures and Guidelines.

C. IT Procedures or Guidelines Supporting this Policy

- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) "Electronic Authentication Guideline" dated April 2006 (http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistpubs/800-63/SP800-63V1_0_2.pdf).

X. Administrative Use

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